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# Borough of Southwold



INTERIM

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1940

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J. D. BORHAM,

Medical Officer of Health for the Borough.



# Borough of Southwold.

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## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1940.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

I beg to submit a brief Interim Report for  
the year 1940.

### Population.

The population on the 1st January was 2596. From  
July to September the population decreased to 986, but  
by 31st December it had risen again to 1260. x

### Houses.

1st January—number of houses occupied 1062. x

„ „ „ not occupied 46.

During month of September only 390 houses were  
occupied, the remainder being empty, and on December  
31st 501 houses were occupied.

No new houses have been erected during the year.

### Public Nursing.

A District Nurse, who also undertakes inspection of  
Tubercular Cases and Infant Welfare for the County  
Sanitary Authorities, is provided by a local association.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Southwold Ambulance Section of the British Red Cross Society provides a Motor Ambulance available day and night for any service required. The Town Council makes a grant of £10 per annum towards its upkeep.

The members of the Southwold Red Cross Detachment give their services, but a small charge is made for the use of the ambulance except in cases of patients who cannot afford to pay, when the whole service is gratuitous. This service continues to prove adequate and satisfactory.

### **Infant Welfare Clinic.**

A Clinic has been started by the East Suffolk County Council at 22 Park Lane, Southwold. The Southwold District and Wangford District Nurses attend once every fortnight and an Assistant County Medical Officer of Health every month.

### **Blood Transfusion Service.**

In spite of evacuation there are a number of universal donors residing in the Borough ready to be called upon for transfusion cases.

### **Hospitals.**

Provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

1. TUBERCULOSIS. Hospital Treatment of Pulmonary cases is provided by the County Council at Ipswich Sanatorium.

2. FEVER. Under a County Joint Hospital Scheme accommodation is provided for cases of infectious disease, other than Small Pox, at Lowestoft Borough Isolation Hospital and Stowmarket Isolation Hospital.

3. SMALLPOX. Accommodation is provided by the County Sanitary Authorities.

4. VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS. The Southwold and District Hospital serves the Borough and surrounding Parishes. The normal accommodation consists of two public wards of 5 beds each for males and females respectively and three private wards, but the accommodation has now been extended so that in all 20 beds are available. Ample Hospital accommodation is available for casualties.



## **Notifiable Diseases.**

The following cases have occurred :—

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Acute Primary Pneumonia   | 3 cases           |
| Erysipelas                | 5 cases           |
| Puerperal Pyrexia         | 1 case            |
| Whooping Cough            | 1 case            |
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis | 1 case (Military) |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis    | 1 case (Female)   |

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## **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

One house was found to be infested and was satisfactorily fumigated by the owner under the supervision of the local authority.

## **The Harbour.**

This is now closed to all traffic.

## **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

(a) MEAT. Meat is periodically inspected by me at the Slaughter House and adjoining premises and also when exposed for sale in the shops in the Borough and it has been found to be of excellent quality. The sanitary conditions at the Slaughter House and adjoining premises are satisfactory. No slaughtering is now carried out within the Borough, the meat being killed at Lowestoft and Beccles where it is inspected before being brought into the Borough.

(b) MILK. The milk supply is both ample in quantity and of satisfactory quality. The Dairies have been inspected and found clean.

(c) GENERAL FOOD AND PROVISIONS. Under an order made by the Divisional Food Officer I have inspected food shops on premises damaged by hostile action and certain foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for sale owing to contamination by splintered glass.

## **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

The water supply continues to be adequate and of an excellent quality. Drainage, sewerage and arrangements for the disposal of House Refuse are satisfactory. Various premises have been inspected during the year and defects rectified.

Fifteen Public Trench Shelters have been inspected during the year and found to be in a satisfactory state of sanitation.

## **A.R.P. Services.**

FIRST AID PARTY DEPÔT. There is one complete First Aid Party under the Depôt Superintendent, Mr. F. Cox.

FIRST AID POST. There is a Fixed Aid Post but arrangements have been made whereby it may be converted into a Mobile Post if required. Mrs. J. B. Critten has been responsible to me for the supervision of the personnel. Both services are well equipped and staffed and are available to deal with casualties at all hours.

## **General Remarks.**

As you are aware I took over the duties of Medical Officer of Health of the Borough on July 1st owing to Dr. Collings leaving the town.

The health of the town during the year has been very good and in spite of the entry of a large number of military personnel there has been no outbreak of epidemic disease.

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. J. S. Hurst, Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable assistance to me in my work.

J. D. BORHAM,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



